

# HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 7 Number 9

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Several of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) meetings noted below have been announced in the Federal Register (FR), together with additional background information. Readers can automatically receive e-mailed copies of FR Notices by subscribing to the SAB Listserver; see Section Updates below.

If a series of meetings is anticipated, the number of the meeting in the series is indicated in parentheses; e.g., "(#2)".

## SEPTEMBER



10-12

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Metals Assessment Panel

Topic(s): Evaluation of Metals Action Plan

Purpose: To review the EPA's draft Action Plan for the "Framework for Metals Assessment and Cross-Agency Guidance for Assessing Metals-Related Hazard and Risk"

Location: Hilton Hotel, Crystal City, VA

Chair: Dr. Valerie Thomas, Princeton University

DFO: Ms. Kathleen White

Email: [white.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov)

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

**24-26**

**Committee:** Radiation Advisory Committee's (RAC) Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) Review Panel

**Topic(s):** MARLAP II

**Purpose:** To confer on edits to the public draft report, MARLAP Manual and to achieve closure on the report.

**Location:** EPA East Conference Room, Room 1117

**Chair:** *Dr. Janet Johnson, Shepherd Miller, Inc.*

**DFO:** *Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian*

**Email:** [kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov](mailto:kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov)

**26**

**Committee:** Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)

**Topic(s):** Planning Meeting

**Purpose:** To review the draft report, MARLAP Manual and to discuss, plan and schedule proposed projects for the RAC or Panels for FY 2003.

**Location:** EPA East Conference Room, Room 1117

**Chair:** *Dr. Janet Johnson, Shepherd Miller, Inc.*

**DFO:** *Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian*

**Email:** [kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov](mailto:kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov)

**26(Non-FACA)**

**Session:** EPA SAB Staff Office

**Topic(s):** Public Involvement in EPA SAB Activities

**Purpose:** To hear public concerns about and ways to strengthen public involvement in SAB meetings, report development, and how to strengthen the SAB's Public Access website.

**Location:** Hotel Washington, Washington, DC

**DFO:** *Dr. Angela Nugent*

**Email:** [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)

## OCTOBER



1-2

**Committee:** Executive Committee (EC)  
**Topic(s):** Review Meeting  
**Purpose:** Quarterly meeting will be used to review committee reports mentioned in the SAB Reports in Progress section.  
**Location:** Hotel Washington, Washington, DC  
**Chair:** *Dr. William Glaze, University of North Carolina*  
**DFO:** *Mr. A. Robert Flaak*  
**Email:** [flaak.robort@epa.gov](mailto:flaak.robort@epa.gov)

30-31

**Committee:** Executive Committee's (EC) Contaminated Sediments Science Plan Panel  
**Topic(s):** Contaminated Sediments Science Plan  
**Purpose:** To review "The Contaminated Sediments Science Plan" which is a mechanism for the US EPA to develop and coordinate Agency-wide science activities in the contaminated sediments area.  
**Location:** TBA  
**Chair:** *Dr. Steven Bartell, Cadmus Group*  
**DFO:** *Mr. Lawrence Martin*  
**Email:** [martin.lawrence@epa.gov](mailto:martin.lawrence@epa.gov)

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST



**O**n August 8, the Executive Committee's Metals Assessment Panel held its first teleconference in a series of three preceding the September 10-12 face to face meeting to review the Agency's draft Action Plan for the "Framework for Metals Assessment and Cross-Agency Guidance for Assessing Metals-Related Hazard and Risk." The Action Plan will lead to a Framework and Guidance for EPA programs to

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

use when assessing the hazards and risks of metals and metal compounds. The Action Plan (a) identifies the primary elements to be addressed in the assessment Framework; (b) proposes a structure for the Framework; and (c) sets out a process that will culminate in the production of the Guidance.

The panel received a briefing on ethics, discussed the charge and the review materials. Also, they were assigned to write specific charge questions and were briefed by Agency staff on the draft Action Plan. The chair noted that the panel is being asked to review a plan, not a finished procedure or document. Therefore, there is opportunity to provide constructive input that EPA can use to shape the framework and guidance.

The charge questions can be found on the SAB's website, <http://www.epa.gov/sab>, which also includes a link to the Agency's draft Action Plan.

**O**n August 12, the Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) met by public teleconference to come to closure on the consensus advice to be provided to the Administrator on the Committee's review of the Agency's methodology for evaluating "affordability" of new drinking water regulations to small systems. The concept of affordability was created by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and it is used to determine whether variances should be available to systems that provide drinking water to 10,000 or fewer customers (small systems).

The EEAC was asked by the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water to comment on: a) the basic approach to

determining affordability for small systems; b) factors included within the methodology; c) the application, focus, and definition of affordability; and d) whether the potential availability of financial assistance should be considered in the national level affordability criteria.

The Committee members came to closure on the advice to be given on each question. The report to the Administrator is now being developed by the Committee.

**O**n August 15, the Executive Committee's Metals Assessment Panel held its second conference call in a series of three to allow the Panel to hear public comments and invited presentations. Because no public comment was requested, the core of the meeting consisted of five presentations and questions on them. The speakers were: 1) Dr. Sam Luoma, Senior Research Hydrologist USGS and Lead Scientist, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Sacramento, CA; 2) Bill Adams, Principal Environmental Scientist for Rio Tinto; 3) Herbert Needleman, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; 4) Joshua Hamilton, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Director of Dartmouth Center for Environmental Health Sciences; and 5) John Maney, President of Environmental Measurements Assessment.

Dr. Maney, who had previously chaired the SAB's review of the Agency's Quality System and its Implementation, spoke on the Agency's Quality System and OMB Quality Guidelines on Information Quality as they relate to the Draft Action Plan. His written comments may be of general interest and are posted on the SAB's website,

<http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

**O**n August 29, the Executive Committee's Metals Assessment Panel held its last conference call in the three part series to allow panelists to identify points they think should be addressed in the Panel's report; panelists actually made their comments available, in writing, in advance of the call and they are posted on the SAB's website, <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. This made it easier for other panelists to add to or correct those points. The discussion also helped the Agency identify areas where the panel could benefit from additional briefings at the face-to-face meeting.

The panel meets face-to-face on September 10-12 at the Hilton Crystal City Ronald Reagan National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, Telephone (703) 418-6800.

### STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS

The Board has developed a revised Panel Formation process for the recruitment of ad-hoc review panels. For the latest detailed information, please visit our website, [www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html](http://www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html).

### SAB REPORTS IN PROGRESS



#### **a** PROJECTS DUE FOR THE OCT 1-2 EC MEETING

##### EC Subcommittee

- 1) Trichloroethylene Risk Assessment: An SAB Report
- 2) Benefits, Costs and Impacts of the RCRA Subtitle C & UST Programs: An SAB Report
- 3) Framework for Metals Assessment and Cross-Agency Guidance for Assessing Metals-Related Hazard and Risk: An SAB Review

#### **b** PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR LATER EC MEETING

##### DWC

- 1) Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Proposal and Stage II Disinfection/Disinfectant By Product Rule Proposal: An SAB Review

##### RAC

- 2) MARLAP: An SAB Report

#### **c** PROJECTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE EC APPROVAL (CASAC & COUNCIL)

##### CASAC

- 1) The Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter: An SAB Review

**d PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EC APPROVAL AND AWAIT COMPLETION**

EEC

- 1) Surface Impoundments Study: An SAB Review

**COMPUTER NEWS**



(1) SAB Website is within the EPA Home Page. You are invited to visit the SAB Website at URL: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

The site offers such features as:

- (a) Full-text reports for FY1994-FY2002
- (b) Background information about the structure, function, and membership of the SAB
- (c) A projected six-month calendar of SAB meetings
- (d) Recent issues of HAPPENINGS
- (e) Draft/final agendas of upcoming meetings and draft/final minutes of past meetings.

(2) SAB Listserver - By subscribing to the free SAB Listserver, you will automatically receive copies of all Federal Register notices announcing SAB meetings, together with brief descriptions of the topics to be covered at the meetings. These notices will be e-mailed to you within 24-hours of their publication in the Federal Register.

To subscribe, simply send the following message, inserting your names,

Subscribe epa-sab2 FIRSTNAME  
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to

[listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov](mailto:listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov)

3) Obtaining copies of SAB reports:

Single hard copies of SAB reports are available for distribution by contacting, Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson

Phone: (202) 564-4543

Email: [tillery.priscilla@epa.gov](mailto:tillery.priscilla@epa.gov)

or

by faxing your request to  
(202) 501-0256.

**MEMBERS/  
CONSULTANTS/  
STAFF NEWS**



**Members/Consultants News**

The Science Advisory Board's Staff sends out their deepest sympathy to the Kasperson family in the lost of Roger Kasperson's wife, Jeanne. Dr. Kasperson is a member of the Executive Committee.

**Staff News**

**Mr. Fred Butterfield** joined the SAB staff on September 2. Immediately before joining EPA, Fred was detailed to the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, where he worked closely with the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Counsel to the President in establishing the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

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Prior to joining EPA, he was a Special Assistant and Senior Technical Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Budget in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) at the U.S. Department of Energy. While at DOE, Fred served as the principal Deputy DFO for the 250-member EM Site-Specific Advisory Board chartered under FACA.

Fred is an environmental engineer who served for sixteen years on active duty with the U.S. Navy before taking early retirement in 1994, when he began his civilian Federal employee career. He will be serving as the DFO for the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

**Mr. Daniel "Dan" Fort** will be joining the SAB on September 22. He comes to SAB after nearly thirteen years with the EPA. After one year with the Office of Solid Waste, Dan served twelve years with the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. Previous to his experience in government, he worked for 10 years in the petroleum refining industry in a number of research, production and supervisory positions. His private and public sector experiences include chemical engineering, exposure/risk assessment and modeling, environmental compliance, and pollution prevention. Dan also designs and programs distance learning courses (education through the Internet). He is the author of several online courses used by both EPA's internal and external customers. He will be serving as the DFO for the Integrated Human Exposure Committee.

**Ms. Vickie Richardson**, Management Analyst for the Committee Evaluation and Support Staff, was promoted this month. Outside her normal scope of activities in the areas of policy formulation and interpretation, she will extend her talents by providing advice and analysis regarding administration of the SAB. Ms. Richardson has a BA in Speech Communications with a minor in Political Science and a Master in Public Administration.

**Dr. James "Jim" Rowe** joined the SAB on September 8. He comes from the Science Policy Council (SPC) staff within the Office of Research and Development (ORD), Office of Science Policy. Jim was trained in pharmacology and has served as a review pharmacologist within the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, a senior review toxicologist and section head within the Office of Pesticides Programs and currently as a science administrator for the SPC/ORD. He is tentatively assigned to serve as a DFO for the SAB Drinking Water Committee as well as staffing preparations for additional SAB peer review issues identified by the Agency and SAB.

**Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal** will join the SAB on September 8. She comes to the SAB from the Office of Pesticide Programs, Health Effects Division where she has been working as a biologist and risk assessor. She also served as Special Assistant to the Office Director in the Office of Science Coordination and Policy in the Office of Prevention,

Pesticides, and Toxic Substances.

Before joining EPA in 1998, she served as a postdoctoral fellow at NIH for about 3 years. She received her Ph.D. in 1995 in Microbiology and Immunology specializing in Cancer Immunology. She has experience in teaching, laboratory bench-work, as well as regulatory toxicology. She will be serving as the DFO for the Environmental Health Committee.

**Ms. Kathleen White**, Designated Federal Officer for the Environmental Engineering Committee, returned to full-time work on the occasion of her recent promotion, August 25. She has been on the SAB Staff for 18 years. She joined the Science Advisory Board staff as Deputy Director, resigning that post in 1989 to have time to enjoy the environment she was working to protect. She worked part-time as a Designated Federal Officer until age and the desire to eventually retire in comfort motivated her return to full-time employment. Kathleen received her BS and MS from Tufts University where she studied biology, public health, and sanitary engineering.

BON MOT



"Did you hear about the two chemists who got married and soon developed a rocky relationship at home, with constant arguing and bickering? Their colleagues in the lab described their marriage as 'co-violent bond'."

Courtesy of Dr. Donald G. Barnes